

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 445 Capital Building State Capitol

February 9, 2016

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Co-Chair
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy, House Vice Chair
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Bruce Cutler
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Justin L. Fawson
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Norm Thurston

Members Excused: Pres. Wayne Niederhauser

Members Absent: Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher

Staff Present: Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Jill Curry, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Lori Brinkerhoff, Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

2. RFA - Partnerships for Student Success (Millner)

Sen. Millner said the purpose of S.B. 67 is to improve educational outcomes for low income students. She discussed the success of the Roy Cone Project. They are working to provide public/private partnerships through a grant program. The funding request is for \$5 million.

Rep. Briscoe asked if there was an evaluation component. Sen. Millner answered that there is a required third party evaluation to ensure that desired outcomes are achieved.

3. High Quality School Readiness (Millner)

Sen. Millner explained that S.B. 101 is an expansion of the High Quality School Readiness Program. She discussed the K-3 Reading Program. Rep. Briscoe asked if Sen. Millner had consulted with the School Board, what their opinion is, and how this item has been prioritized. Sen. Millner replied that they have worked extensively with the School Board, USOE, as well as Workforce Services. They have all recognized the need for this program. She discussed the findings from the pilot program. She said that the bill provides a grant for LEAs administered by the State Board. It also involves Workforce Services and private providers. The purpose is to provide more options for parents to choose the school readiness program that meets their needs. Rep. Briscoe mentioned the readiness program in Colorado where every pre-school is rated on a four point scale. He asked if that is envisioned in this proposal. Sen. Millner mentioned that HB 96 deals more directly with programs designated as high quality. She said the bill would provide grant funds for programs who meet all of the high quality standards.

4. Special Education Intensive Services (Briscoe/Fillmore)

Rep. Briscoe presented the [Special Education Intensive Services](#) request. Rep. Briscoe explained that school districts spend the money to serve the child with the disability first. After June 30^h, they document all of the expenditures and apply to the USOE for funding. They are only eligible for this funding if they spent over three times the average expenditure for a child. The district is only reimbursed for any amount above the three times threshold.

Sen. Fillmore indicated that as a member of the Special Education finance committee they review these results every year. He said that it is part of state and federal law to provide education for these students no matter how expensive it is. If sufficient funding is set aside, those schools would have a resource to help cover the costs. He will be bringing legislation forward regarding this.

5. School Library Print & Digital Resources (Adams)

Ms. Barbara Smith, Davis School Board, thanked the committee for their past support. She discussed the current condition of the resources in libraries. Ms. Sharyl Smith, retired library director, said that now school libraries include electronic devices. She emphasized the need for quality information as they support all curriculum in the schools. She discussed the disparity among districts in [Expenditures for Library Books](#). Sen. Adams discussed the significant changes that have occurred over the past few years especially with electronic media. He asked the committee to support this funding request of \$3.6 million in one-time funding distributed over three years. Rep. Christensen expressed his support that this be a high priority.

6. UPSTART Funding (Adams)

Sen. Adams reviewed the six measureable facts which are the basis for the UPSTART funding request. He specifically mentioned the success of the program especially in rural areas. He reported that the request is for \$3.2 million ongoing. Co-Chair Stephenson spoke of the high fidelity associated with this program. He reported that the third-party evaluation showed almost

100 percent fidelity in UPSTART whereas the reading intervention software was only 6,000 out of 36,000. He mentioned the statistics from UPSTART show that it is having a very positive effect on children throughout the state.

Rep. Fawson asked if the UPSTART program included equipment as well as software and is there a possible move to a cloud-based system. Sen. Adams reported that the districts are trying to bring down the costs of UPSTART to serve more children. Rep. Last stated that equipment and an internet connection are only provided if the family does not have them. Sen. Adams indicated that UPSTART is a cloud-based program. Rep. Gibson asked for clarification about the meaning of fidelity. Co-Chair Eliason reported on his meeting with representatives of the company suggesting ways to reduce costs. Rep. Last indicated they continue to do this.

7. Dropout Prevention Programs (Adams)

Sen. Adams introduced the total appropriation request of \$2 million one-time regarding the Dropout Prevention Program. He said the goal is to create a pilot program administered by the USOE. Mr. Jack Rolfe, School of Life foundation and Mr. Justin Keate, V.P. Deseret Hills discussed the history and success of the program. Ms. Aubrey Vance, Star Academies, discussed the program at her school. Rep. Last gave his support for this program.

8. U of U Reading Clinic (Poulson)

Rep. Poulson introduced former Sen. Karen Morgan. Ms. Morgan presented the \$170,000 funding request for the U of U Reading Clinic. She gave an overview of the program and mentioned some pilot programs as well as the request for a distance lab. She invited committee members to come to the clinic. Rep. Briscoe stated that Nevada has modeled the U of U Reading clinic as part of their approach to serve a highly diverse population. Co-Chair Stephenson was very impressed with the distance learning outreach program when he toured the clinic. Rep. Poulson reported on the excellent professional development for teachers and encouraged support of this funding request.

9. IT Academy (Last)

Rep. Last explained the funding request to continue with the \$500,000 ongoing for the Microsoft IT Academy. Mr. Keith Ward, Account Executive with Microsoft who gave the [IT Academy Presentation](#). Mr. Ward stated that the new name is the "Microsoft Imagine Academy" which is a college and career-ready education program. He reviewed the purpose and implementation of this program. Mr. Brandon Jacobsen, teacher, Copper Hills High School discussed the great impact of the program on students in the state. Rep. Cutler asked how many courses students are allowed to take and where they take them. Mr. Cody Hendrickson, teacher, Canyons Technical Education Center, answered that all of the schools that join the academy can utilize the courses. Students can achieve up to ten different certifications.

10. SUU Technology Pipeline Proposal (Last)

Rep. Last reported that this program started last year with \$290,000 of funding through the

Higher Education Appropriations Committee. He said that because the program is targeted to public education students, they are asking for \$150,000 ongoing to keep the program going. Dr. William Heyborne, Director SUU STEM gave an overview of the program that has been focused on eight-counties in Southwestern Utah. He thanked Rep. Last, Rep. Stanard, and Sen. Urquhart who got the funding started last year. He discussed the three areas of focus and stated that they have received several grants. He mentioned the collaboration with the STEM action center. He mentioned that the State Board recently adopted new science and engineering education standards which has allowed them to provide professional development. He explained the upcoming STEM festival in Southern Utah. Rep. Last discussed the positive impact of the outreach that is going on.

11. Washington County Tech Pipeline (Stanard)

Rep. Stanard briefly introduced the \$150,000 one-time funding request for the Washington County Tech Pipeline. Dr. Eric Pederson, Dean of Science and Technology, Dixie State University (DSU) discussed the great demand for technology training. DSU graduates about 40 students in the CIT programs and the service area currently has over 25,000 positions. DSU has been working with school districts to increase the pipeline of students who are interested in these high-paying jobs. He gave a video presentation targeting female students called "Girls Go Digital." Dr. Pederson discussed the success of computer camps for 8 to 18 year-olds, Lego League robotics, and intensive code schools during the summer months. They placed 21 students into internships with private sector companies. Rep. Stanard mentioned how important it is to have children at a young age get involved with these programs.

12. School Bus Route Grant Program (Stanard)

Rep. Stanard stated that any route that is less than 1.5 or 2 miles, depending on grade level, does not receive state reimbursement for school bus routes. He said that this presents some very serious safety concerns regarding some of these routes. Some school districts have created school boundaries that is not the closest school, but send them farther away so they can bus them because there is not a safe way to get them to the schools. He is sponsoring H.B. 301 which is a School Bus Route Grant Program allowing school districts to submit grant proposals for routes that are unsafe. The USOE would develop a priority funding for this \$1 million appropriation.

13. Utah Anti-Bullying Commission (Schultz)

Rep. Perry presented the \$250,000 one-time request on behalf of Rep. Mike Schultz with the help of the Utah Jazz bear. Mr. Stan Parrish, Utah Anti-Bullying Coalition, gave an overview about a program that will help students become engaged in anti-bullying. They raised funds from the business committee and took the Jazz Bear to make a presentation to about 70 schools in the first year. He said that last year they received some state funding which were matched by private donations allowing them to visit 179 schools. There is current demand well over \$1 million from 380 more schools requesting help from the coalition. Ms. Pam Hayes, Program Director spoke of the success of this program and stated that they prevented fourteen suicides in the past year. They customize the services offered to the needs of the school.

14. Succeed at the Club (Schultz)

Rep. Perry spoke on behalf of Rep. Schultz. He introduced Ms. Kate Bideaux, Executive Director of the Utah Boys and Girls Club of Weber & Davis Counties. Ms. Bideaux introduced the corporate partners of United Way, Ameri-Corps, the Weber School District Foundation, the Larry Miller Group, and mentioned other sponsors. Ms. Bideaux spoke about the success of this program and the Roy Cone Initiative. They asked for support of this funding request.

15. DIBELS Assessment Tools Funding (Powell)

Rep. Powell gave an overview of the DIBELS Reading Assessment Tool and requested \$500,000 ongoing to ensure availability to all students in the state. Mr. Dave Stevenson, AMPLIFY, reported on the tool currently being used throughout the state in K-3 classrooms. He introduced Mr. Ryan Brown, Principal from Wasatch School District; Mr. Dave Long, Tech Services from Logan City, Ms. Christy Wagner, Reading Specialist from Weber; Ms. Laura Wright, Principal of Farr West Elementary, and Ms. JaNeil Oblad from Granite.

Mr. Brown discussed the success of the AMPLIFY program. Mr. Long stressed that this program has allowed them to gather data quickly to aid in making day-to-day decisions. Ms. Wagner reported that this tool has been very beneficial in increasing student results from beginning to end of year. Ms. Wright said the utilization of this tool has allowed individual student needs to be met, and has been very helpful to maximize teacher time. Ms. Oblad reported on the positive responses they have received from parents as they share the data about their child's reading scores.

Chair Stephenson mentioned that he has observed great success statewide with the AMPLIFY system. He asked committee members to consider increasing the funding to utilize this program up to sixth grade as well as having districts share more in some of the costs. Mr. Stevenson stated that cost-sharing is currently taking place. He would like to see cost-sharing dollars applied for additional AMPLIFY programs. Mr. Brown indicated that this tool is important enough to the Wasatch School District that they want all of the features available with the program. So the district is already contributing dollars to provide the full functionality of the program. Co-Chair Stephenson asked for information that shows which districts are participating in additional parts of the program.

Rep. Briscoe understands that DIBELS is used because it is easier to administer and interpret. He has seen it misused, overused, and actually reduce reading levels in schools.

16. Online Education Enhancement (Wilson)

Rep. Wilson introduced a \$1.8 million ongoing request for Online Education Enhancement to offer courses that students would otherwise not have access to. The request would allow the program to expand its outreach including Concurrent Enrollment courses and other distance learning courses.

17. Hospitality Workforce Education (Barlow)

Rep. Barlow introduced the request of \$275,000 one time for Hospitality Workforce Education. He gave an overview of the program which offers training for jobs in the tourism industry. Mr. Jordan Garn, Executive Director of the Utah Hotel & Lodging Association, shared data regarding the Utah tourism and hospitality industry and the great economic generator for the state. He stated that there is currently no educational alignment in preparing people to enter this critical workforce. This is a two-year CTE training program for juniors and seniors in high school allowing them to earn up to seven certificates in the tourism industry.

18. Necessarily Existent Small Schools (Okerlund)

Rep. McIff reviewed data showing the disparity that exists between course offerings at smaller schools and the larger schools in the state. Rep. McIff indicated that the request is for \$2 million ongoing and is part of H.B. 217. He stated that the School Board is in support of the request as well as many other groups.

19. ACT Prep (Stephenson/Last)

Rep. Last discussed the funding request to make the \$500,000 appropriation ongoing rather than one-time regarding ACT preparation. He mentioned that a few years ago SHMOOP won the RFP for ACT preparation. He introduced Kelsey Olsen and Dave Copeland, SHMOOP representatives. Ms. Olsen explained that she supervises the SHMOOP ACT Prep program for students throughout the state. She explained what they provide for the schools and that they currently have 21 districts, 42,000 students and 1,500 teachers using their program. She discussed the success of the program. Co-Chair Stephenson spoke of the success of the SHMOOP program. He asked how much coverage is being obtained from the statewide contract. Ms. Olsen said there are currently 42,000 students who are registered and active. Rep. Last indicated that this would be an RFP contract, and SHMOOP would have to compete in order to be awarded the contract.

20. Board Certified/Title I Teaching Initiative (Eliason)

Co-Chair Eliason presented his \$500,000 ongoing funding request for Board Certified/ Title I Teaching Initiative. He explained that only about one percent of teachers in the state are Nationally Board Certified teachers. He explained the process involved for teachers to become Board Certified and the benefit to students and the state for having certified teachers. H.B. 331 would reimburse teachers after they had become certified and also for recertification.

21. Homeless Children Supplemental Funding (Eliason)

Co-Chair Eliason said that when a child becomes homeless, they often lose six months of educational attainment. This funding request for \$450,000 ongoing and onetime would give a grant to local school districts to provide educational and recreational activities for these students during the summer months. Ms. Susan Edwards, Canyon School District gave a brief overview

of the services they provide for homeless students. Ms. Edwards stated there are currently 1,600 homeless students being serviced by the Canyon School Districts.

Rep. Christensen asked about a description of a typical family in the homeless shelters. Ms. Edwards said that the smaller percentage are children who are temporarily there because of a divorce, fire or similar situation. The larger percentage are students who are in chronically homeless families; many of these families are mothers and their children who are victims of domestic violence. Co-Chair Eliason mentioned that he had more detailed information available.

22. State Capitol Field Trips (Eliason)

Rep. Eliason presented this request for \$150,000 to allow districts to apply for funds to take field trips to the State Capitol. He introduced Ms. Emmylou Manwill from the Capitol Hill Preservation Board. Ms. Manwill reported that during the legislative session they see 30,000 school children, with about 430 separate school-group tours. Ms. Manwill reported that these services are offered to home schools, charter schools, and all forms of LEAs. Sen. Iwamoto introduced the sixth grade students from Elizabeth Academy, a private school.

23. ProStart Teen Chef Masters (Lifferth)

Rep. Lifferth discussed the success of the ProStart program. He asked that the request receive a high priority. Ms. Melva Sine, Director of ProStart Program explained that the funding request of \$664,000 is for the Teen Chef Master's Program. Ms. Cassie Kelsch, Sous Chef, University of Utah Crimson View, discussed her experience in the ProStart Chef Master's Program. Mr. Tom Guinney, Gastronomy Restaurants, said that the ProStart program introduces young people to this thriving industry. Mr. Peter Hodgson, executive chef at Salt Lake City Marriott University Park discussed the national title Ms. Kelsch won at a recent competition as well as the national and international success of Victor Perez and Lyn Wells, other ProStart students.

24. Utah Education Association Budget Priorities

Ms. Lisa Nentl-Bloom, UEA Executive Director, discussed the UEA budget priorities [UEA Issue Brief- FY 2016 Public Education Funding](#) and [UEA Above versus Below the Line](#). They were grateful for the funding from last year. She mentioned S.B. 97 regarding property tax equalization. She discussed the process involved in determining UEA's priorities. Ms. Nentl-Bloom stated that the top two funding priorities for the UEA are to provide funding for growth and to increase the WPU by five percent. She discussed other funding priorities. She included specific quotes from two educators.

Co-Chair Eliason asked for clarification regarding the WPU increases. Ms. Nentl-Bloom explained that this would be for seven percent ongoing. They would be hopeful that this would be used for teachers' salaries.

25. Review of FY 2016 One-time Funding Items

Mr. Leishman said that most of the items that were funded one time were repeated through various requests to the committee. He reminded committee members that one-time funding items do not automatically receive funding in the next fiscal year unless they are prioritized. The document [Items Funded in FY 2016 from One-time Sources](#) lists each program and funding amount.

26. Charter School Local Replacement – S.B. 38

Co-Chair Stephenson discussed the current status of S.B. 38. He reported on the meeting held yesterday regarding this issue. He discussed the [Voted and Board Local Levy Equalization](#) charts. He will discuss some of the statistics regarding Duchesne school district offline with Mr. Leishman. He is hopeful that school districts will seek voter approval regarding the equalization.

Co-Chair Stephenson explained that the Charter School Task Force met and has decided that charter schools and districts should be counting students the same way. He stated that last year the combined Equity Pupil Unit and Weighted Pupil Unit was increased by about seven percent.

Sen. Fillmore explained the Equity Pupil Unit concept that started last year with S.B. 97. He discussed the disparity between school districts. He wanted to make sure that funding increases are targeted to those students who need it most. He mentioned that the goal of the two combined bills is to fund every child equally.

Co-Chair Stephenson mentioned some current federal lawsuits in other states regarding this issue. He is hoping that the Legislature will continue to support what Sen. Osmond and S.B. 97 did last year to achieve equity funding.

Rep. Poulson mentioned the importance of addressing the concern of transparency so that districts are accountable for funds that are spent. This is critical as they face their taxpayers.

27. Strategy for Change Certified Teacher Librarians

Ms. Sharyl Smith presented the request for \$3.6 million one-time over three years to measure the Impact of Certified Teacher Librarians and the positive effect they have on Student Achievement. She mentioned the support for this proposal. Ms. Barbara Smith discussed the project and the [Strategy for Change District Map](#). She reported that this project would bring 25 certified teacher-librarians into 25 schools currently without them. She mentioned that all schools can apply for this grant and that funding is based on a 50/50 salary match. The funding also includes a data-driven assessment by an outside team to identify whether this strategy is impacting the schools.

Co-Chair Stephenson asked if this is an incentive for LEAs to have certified librarians or is it funding for the librarians? Ms. Barbara Smith indicated that it is funding for 25 teacher

librarians that would also be an incentive. Co-Chair Stephenson requested more offline conversation regarding this issue.

28. Final FY16 or FY17 Budget Items

Mr. Leishman discussed the [Public Education - Comprehensive List of Funding Requests](#). He gave a brief review of the follow-up motions. He discussed the issue of longtime oversight of the Statewide Online Education Program. He mentioned some options to bring more visibility to the program. He pointed out an error in the amount listed regarding moving the Centennial Scholarships below the line. He discussed the issue of approving additional funding regarding teacher licensing fees. He mentioned intent language that was passed last year regarding teacher supply reimbursement funds. He discussed the intent language regarding the flexible allocation program and the use of revenue generated through the leasing of SAGE test questions to other states.

Rep. Christensen discussed the need to increase teacher salaries as well as increasing the merit bonuses for teachers program.

MOTION: Rep. Thurston made the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.
Co-Chair Eliason adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.